

REMARKS

In the above captioned application, the Examiner issued a Non-Final Office Action in which he: (i) rejected claim 94 as obvious over DE 1234234 in view of McClain (U.S. 4,287,333) or Stramel (U.S. 5,397,391); (ii) rejected claims 94 and 95 as obvious over Menovcik *et al.* (U.S. 5,876,493) in view of McClain (U.S. 4,287,333), Stramel (U.S. 5,397,391), Yaginuma *et al.* (U.S. 3,920,769) or Orth-Gerber *et al.* (U.S. 6,340,387); and (iii) allowed claims 68 – 93.

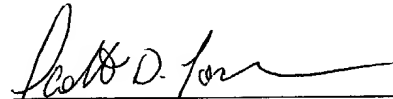
Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's bases for rejecting claims 94 and 95; however, Applicants have canceled those claims in order to facilitate that prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more continuing application. Applicants note that as dependent claims, claims 94 and 95 incorporate all of the limitations of the claims on which they depend, and thus, for the reasons that the base claims are patentable over the art of record, the dependent claims are also patentable over the art of record. Further, Applicants note that a dried paint composition would not consist of a polymer matrix composition for use in plastics applications. Additionally, Applicants respectfully disagree that the cited art can be combined to describe the invention as embodied in the rejected claims, or that there is sufficient motivation to combine that art. However, since claims 94 and 95 have been canceled, Applicants submit that the rejections are moot.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record if he can be of assistance in furthering prosecution.

Applicants: El-Shoubary *et al.*
Application Serial No.: 09/723,098
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Because this response is timely, Applicants submit that no fee is due. If any fee is required, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account Number 11-071 for such sum.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Locke", is written over a horizontal line.

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